

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 - 23 (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) An implantable medical prosthesis having at least one opening therein and comprising a coating which covers at least a portion of the prosthesis, wherein the coating comprises a polymeric material incorporating a biologically active material, and wherein the average particle size of the biologically active material is ~~equal to or less than about 15~~ about 4-6 μm and wherein the coating adheringly conforms to the ~~prosthesis~~ prosthesis to preserve the opening therein when the ~~stent~~ prosthesis is expanded.

25. (Currently Amended) The prosthesis of claim 24 wherein the average particle size of the biologically active material is ~~equal to or less than about 10~~ about 4 μm .

26. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 24 wherein the coating comprises about 25-45 weight percent of the biologically active material.

27. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 24 wherein the biologically active material includes heparin.

28. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 24 wherein the polymeric material is a hydrophobic elastomeric material.

29. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 28 wherein the elastomeric material is selected from the group consisting of silicones, polyurethanes, polyamide elastomers, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymers, polyolefin elastomers, ethylene-propylene terpolymer rubbers and combinations thereof.

30. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 24 wherein the coating reduces an initial burst release of the biologically active material upon implantation of the prosthesis as compared to a coating comprising the same biologically active material having an average particle size greater than about 15 μm .

31. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 24 wherein the prosthesis is an expandable stent having a tubular metal body having open ends and a sidewall structure having openings therein and wherein the coating adheringly conforms to the sidewall structure to preserve the openings therein when the stent is expanded.

32. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 31 wherein the stent is a braided stent.

33. (Currently Amended) An implantable medical prosthesis having at least one opening therein and comprising a coating which covers at least a portion of the prosthesis, wherein the coating comprises a hydrophobic elastomeric material incorporating a biologically active material having an average particle size ~~equal to or less than about 15 of~~ about 4-6 μm , wherein the coating reduces an initial burst release of the biologically active material after implantation of the prosthesis as compared to a coating comprising the same biologically active material having an average particle size of greater than about 15 μm and wherein the coating adheringly conforms to the ~~prothesis~~ prosthesis to preserve the opening therein when the ~~stent~~ prosthesis is expanded.

34. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 33 wherein the biologically active material includes heparin and the elastomeric material includes silicone.

35. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 33 wherein the prosthesis is an expandable stent having a tubular metal body having open ends and a sidewall structure having openings therein and wherein the coating adheringly conforms to the sidewall structure to preserve the openings therein when the stent is expanded.

36. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 35 wherein the stent is a braided stent.

37. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 33 wherein the coating comprises about 25-45 weight percent of the biologically active material.

38. (Currently Amended) An expandable stent having a tubular metal body having open ends and a sidewall structure having openings therein, wherein the stent comprises a coating which covers at least a portion of the stent, wherein the coating comprises silicone incorporating heparin, ~~and wherein the~~ having an average particle size of

~~the heparin is equal to or less than about 15~~ about 4-6 μm and wherein the coating adheringly conforms to the sidewall structure to preserve the openings therein when the stent is expanded.